

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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June 25, 1999

The Honorable Martha Escutia, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Escutia:

SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL (SB) 1270 (JUNE 23, 1999 VERSION)

The Department of Health Services (Department) is pleased to co-sponsor SB 1270, which would ensure adopted children receive necessary medical care through the Medi-Cal program. The bill extends categorical Medi-Cal eligibility, under a new federal law, to children residing in California who are receiving state-only Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) payments from another state. This bill would also make California eligible to receive federal financial incentives for foster care adoptions under the Social Security Act.

Currently, children receiving state-only AAP payments from California are automatically eligible for Medi-Cal, including federal financial participation for services provided. Under current state law, state-only AAP children and their families relocating in California from another state would have to qualify under the general Medi-Cal eligibility requirements for income and property. This bill would afford the same Medi-Cal benefits to all children adopted under state-only AAP programs, thus ensuring their access to health care.

The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance included in SB 1270 is a binding agreement among member states to deliver Medi-Cal benefits to all state-only AAP children residing in each member's state. Currently, 30 states are members and 10 states, including California, are pursuing legislation to become members. These reciprocity agreements provide health care benefits to the California state-only AAP children whose families relocate to another participating state through that state's Medicaid program and eliminate California's responsibility to provide coverage for these children under Medi-Cal.

The Department appreciates that the Senate Health and Human Services Committee has agreed to carry this bill for the Administration. Please contact me at (916) 657-2843 if you have any questions or want further information regarding SB 1270.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Charleen M. Milburn
Deputy Director
Legislative and Governmental Affairs